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Message Text

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53
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 SP-02 PM-04 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05

FEAE-00 DODE-00 COME-00 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-06 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:BWBROWN, JR
APPROVED BY OES: MBKRATZER
OES/NET - DHOYLE
NEA - PCONSTABLE
NRC - WKERR
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA, OES, S/P, PM, ACDA
---------- 076304
R 130132Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDO-U.S. NUCLEAR RELATIONS

1. INDIAN DCM VENKATESWARAN, ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY RAJAN, CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER FEBRUARY 10. HOYLE (OES/NET) AND BROWN (NEA/INS) SAT IN. MAIN TOPICS INCLUDED NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR, ALLEGED RADIOACTIVITY AT TARAPUR, AND THE LONDON DISCUSSIONS AMONG NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS.

2. NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR (REF NEW DELHI 1905 AND
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STATE 23841). VENKATESWARAN ASKED FOR STATUS REPORT.

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KRATZER INDICATED THAT EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION HAD BEEN PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES SET OUT IN RECENTLY ISSUED EXECUTIVE ORDER AND THAT IT WAS BEING COORDINATED WITHIN USG, INCLUDING THE NRC, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUANCE OF SUCH LICENSES. HE HOPED THAT EXPORT LICENSE WOULD BE ISSUED "SOON."

3. ALLEGED RADIOACTIVITY AT TARAPUR (REF NEW DELHI 1951 AND PREVIOUS). KRATZER EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE "MOTHER JONES" ALLEGATIONS WERE AIMED NOT AT INDIAN POLICIES BUT AT U.S. POLICIES. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT WE HAD WORKED WITH THE INDIANS TO CLEAR UP CERTAIN POTENTIAL

SAFETY PROBLEMS WHICH HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED DURING THE VISITS OF U.S. TECHNICAL EXPERTS. THE INDIANS ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS SOME WAY FOR USG TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND NOTED IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA'S CABLE TO NRC CHAIRMAN ANDERS. KRATZER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SETHNA'S CABLE AND SAID THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO HOW TO RESPOND TO THESE ALLEGATIONS.

4. LONDON SUPPLIERS' DISCUSSIONS. VENKATESWARAN ASKED FOR BRIEFING. KRATZER ANSWERED THAT THERE HAD BEEN RECENT DISCUSSIONS AMONG CERTAIN MAJOR SUPPLIERS - FOLLOWING A LONG-STANDING PRACTICE - AND THAT CERTAIN PARTICIPANTS HAD REQUESTED COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, TO WHICH ALL HAD AGREED. THEREFORE, HE COULD NOT COMMENT FURTHER. HOWEVER, HE COULD OUTLINE SOME OF THE MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS CON-CERNS. AREAS ON WHICH WE CURRENTLY WERE CONCENTRATING INCLUDED IMPROVING PHYSICAL SECURITY AND ENCOURAGING RESTRAINT TOWARD THE SETTING UP OF NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES. REVERTING TO THE LONDON DISCUSSIONS, VENKATESWARAN STATED IN LOW KEY THAT INDIA SEES THEIR IMPLICATIONS IN A "NEGATIVE MANNER" AND AS "UNFAIR" TO INDIA. AFTER REPEATING THE STANDARD INDIAN ARGUMENTS ON THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN PNE AND WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROSPECTS FOR PNE'S, HE CONCLUDED THAT INDIA DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THE U.S. AND CANADA HOLD BACK INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. (COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS IS FIRST TIME ANY INDIAN OFFICIAL HAS LINKED U.S. AND CANADIAN NUCLEAR POLICIES TOWARD INDIA.) KRATZER RESPONDED THAT U.S. ACCEPTS INDIAN STATEMENTS ON ITS INTENTIONS. PROBLEM IS TECHNICAL: A PNE IS, AFTER ALL, AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE THAT IS TECHNICALLY IDENTICAL WITH A NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHILE INDIA'S INTENTIONS FOR ITS USE MAY BE PEACEFUL, THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A PROGRAM COULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS WHOSE INTENTIONS WERE MORE AMBIVALENT

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TO DEVELOP SIMILAR PROGRAMS. FURTHERMORE, AS INDIANS RECOGNIZED, ARTICLE V OF NPT PROVIDED BASIS BY WHICH NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES COULD OBTAIN PNE SERVICES UNDER HIGHLY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS. SUCH SERVICES HAVE NOT BEEN REQUESTED AND, IN OUR JUDGMENT AT LEAST, THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF PNE'S ARE AT PRESENT OPEN TO SERIOUS QUESTION.

5. MEETING ENDED WITH KRATZER EXPRESSING PERSONAL REGRET THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEND RECENT MEETING IN NEW DELHI OF INDO-U.S. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THAT MEETING HAD GONE VERY WELL.
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